

Monday, November 6, 2006

Haunting the Sanctuary More than 300 people attended the last ever Halloween Bash in

SPEKE

A learning newsroom for journalism students

Flying high

Conestoga aviation program now includes flight hours.

Nouse !

Learning abroad

Conestoga nursing students help the poor and homeless in Brazil, Rwanda.

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the Sanctuary.

Conestoga College, Kitchener, Ont.

www.conestogac.on.ca/spoke

37th Year — No. 21

(Photo by Eric Murphy)

**Monkey business** 

An orangutan mother shows off her baby boy at the Toronto Zoo on Oct. 28 during a Boo at the Zoo event, held to celebrate Halloween. For the story and additional photos, see Pages 14 and 15.

# Students take hit due to benefit delay

By BRANDON WALKER

Students trying to file a claim electronically through the school's health plan before Oct. 19 were forced to pay out of pocket.

A representative from the college's health provider said the problem resulted because personal information wasn't updated, resulting in claims being denied.

The representative said the information is updated automatically once the company receives it, and until Oct. 19 the provider hadn't received this year's list of students who were opting in the health plan.

"I know they (students) have a certain time period where they can back out of it (the health plan)" said Linda from ClaimSecure.

Although students had until Sept. 29 to opt out of the plan, students who needed the benefits couldn't file a claim electronically until the middle of the semester.

The Health Plan Information booklet, located online at Conestoga Students Inc.'s site (http://www.conestogastudents.com/health\_plan.html), says "at the beginning of each semester, a listing of eligible and existing students to date is provided. These records are used to put your personal information online so you can make a pay-direct claim at your pharmacy or dental office."

The booklet also states that claims filed manually can take four to six weeks before students are reimbursed.

CSI office manager Janie

Renwick says this year the college decided to hold the list of students opting out of the health plan for two weeks after the opt out deadline. "That way, if students dropped out early in the semester, the college would only have to send one list."

Renwick said when students filled out the opt out form online it went to the school's insurer, known as ACL. On Oct. 13, ACL sent the information to ClaimSecure.

She said another incident further delayed the information from being updated.

"When the insurance company sent the list to ClaimSecure, they did it by e-mail and it went to the health provider's spam box, so although the information was sent Oct. 13, it wasn't updated until Oct. 19, because someone from the insurer phoned ClaimSecure to double check."

Although CSI tells students in person that the benefits won't be online until mid-October, they plan on updating the brochure so it says that, instead of stating the beginning of the semester, Renwick said.

She also said students should be receiving the first of two health-care refunds very soon for students who opted out of the plan.

"The reason for the two refund cheques is because the Student Information System can only apply refunds per semester. CSI has asked the college to try to rewrite the program so there is only one cheque, which should be starting next year."

#### Remember our heroes

By ALEX MCNANNEY

With Remembrance Day quickly approaching, there will be numerous chances to pay your respects to our fallen heroes, as well as our living ones.

The Preston branch of the Royal Canadian Legion will be marching at 10:15 a.m. to the Preston cenotaph on King Street on Nov. 11, which will be followed by a service. Afterwards, a banquet will be held at the Preston Legion.

In Kitchener, a parade will be held in the city, as well as a service at the Kitchener cenotaph, located on Frederick Street. Afterwards, the veterans will march back to Branch 50 for a lunch serving of stew. That will be followed with a bus tour of the seven legions in the local area.

For more information, you can contact your local branch of the Royal Canadian Legion.

Conestoga Students Inc. will not be holding a service this year because Nov. 11 is on a Saturday.

However, you can pay your respects in other ways. You can write a letter or poem to your local newspaper expressing your gratitude to these brave men and women. You can also wear a poppy to honour our fallen veterans.

But most importantly, if you meet a veteran in your path, take the time to shake his hand and give your thanks for his great bravery and sacrifice. These outstanding men and women deserve to be applauded for their bravery. Make a difference, and on Nov. 11, remember our courageous heroes.

# Now deep thoughts ...with Conestoga College

Random questions answered by random students

If you had the guts to do anything in the world that you've never done before, what would it be?



"I would skydive; it's as close to flying as you'll get."

> Brian Wilde, first-year general nietal machinist

"I would streak in the White House."

Dave Agotesku, first-year computer progranuning/analyst



"I would go to New Zealand and go bungee jumping."

> Shawn Cooper, second-year practical nursing



"I'd go real rockclimbing."

> Sam Kobrynovich, first-year integrated telecommunication and computer technologies





"Wear white after Labour Day."

Bonnie Biermans, first-year LASA/police foundations

"I'd go base-jumping in downtown Kitchener."

Matt MacAulay, tluird-year software engineering



# Keeping bums in the seats

By STEPHANIE IRVINE

Approximately 65 per cent of students who start a program at Conestoga College will complete it to graduation, according to an official from student affairs.

"Right now from a college perspective, system wide, about 60 per cent of students graduate who start the system," Mike Dinning told the board of governors at their Oct. 23 meeting.

"So even though we're near the top there's a lot of room for improvement that can help us maintain and increase our enrolment during a time when we're trying to grow the college."

According to John Tibbits, president of Conestoga College, improving student retention is a key thrust for the school's administration.

"You think you're doing a good job but you could always do better," said Tibbits.

"We're putting even more emphasis on this now than ever before."

He added that he sees retention not as something that will be finished in September.

"It's something where you always have to have your hands on the steering wheel," he said.

Dinning said that in a system of 24 colleges, every one of them is talking about the issues around strategic enrolment management.

"It is about, if I can be colloquial about it, the number of bums in the seats relative to all of the colleges," he said.

"And all of the predictors indicate that the colleges are being challenged in their market share against universities and other influences that have an impact on total enrolment."

Dinning added that all of the statistics that student affairs has indicate that retention is directly connected to student engagement.

"Students who do connect are generally students who stay," he said

One of the key ways to get students to connect is through orientation, according to Carol Gregory of the student affairs office.

"For 2006 the goals of orientation were to provide first-year students in full-time programs with comprehensive academic, social and service orientation processes to maximize their success," she said.

Gregory said although orientation is supposed to be fun for students, the academic aspect of it is critical.

"We want to make sure (the students) get oriented academically both to the faculty and the program," she said.

Gregory said the college's residence, CSI and the rec centre identified right away that there was an increase in student engagement in activities following orientation.

"The residence said they'd never seen numbers come out to events like they did that first week back," said Gregory.

"Success workshops were so full that new rooms had to be found. That really took us by surprise that students were signing up en masse for the study skills workshops."

She went on to say "orientation does not end on day one, and I think that's really critical."

In phase two of orientation faculty members ensure that college school program policy, practices and procedures are outlined to students. In phase three, orientation service providers come in and they introduce all services.

"It's a face-to-face contact, high resource but I think a high bang for the buck in that students incretheir connection with the services after these presentations," said Gregory.

According to a post-orientation survey, 94 per cent of students rated the orientation good to excellent.

"Engaging our students through their transition is not only about what we do, but it's also the tone we set while we do it," she said. "Bottom line, no matter what we do with retention the classroom is where it starts."

John Keating, who chaired the board's meeting, agreed that student retention is a key factor in Conestoga's success.

"It's obvious that there is a great deal of energy going into looking at what best practices are, and having an approach that makes sure this college is doing it better than any other schools," he said.

Keating added that after hearing Dinning and Gregory speak, he feels to some degree the job of increasing student retention is real-

"These are people who have it built into their bones to get better and better and better," he said.

"I'm confident that's likely to happen anyway without our intervention, but we might as well intervene and give a little push to make sure'those things aren't for-

#### Former grad runs for municipal government

#### By LEANNE MOUNTFORD

Mike Harris likes to keep busy. While a student at Conestoga College he was vice-president of CSI, and also sat on the board of governors. Now, as a graduate, he's running for municipal government.

Harris, who graduated from the business management studies program in 2001, is currently running for councillor of South Ward 4.

"I'm proud to have graduated from Conestoga College and I'm proud of my education I got there."

"I learned so much being part of CSI and being a student leader," said Harris, who was vice-president of academics for two years.

In addition to helping with initiatives such as making the policies and procedures fairer for students, he volunteered and participated twice in Conestoga's annual Polar Plunge for the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

He also had a part in changing the name Doon Student Association to Conestoga Students Incorporated.

He also was elected and sat on the college's board of governors for two years, which only elects one student per year.

Harris said he sees the value of a college education and what it can do to the community as a whole.

"I value what the college pro-



(Photo by Leanne Mountford)

Mike Harris, a graduate from the business management studies program at Conestoga, is running for councillor of South Ward 4. Harris said he loves helping people make changes.

vides to the city," he said.

Harris said about eight out of the 10 core people in his campaign team are Conestoga graduates.

Ellen Menage, who was a former president of CSI, and Justin Falconer, who was last year's CSI president, are both helping out.

Harris thinks it's important to be part of the community, and loves helping people make changes.

He said he loves politics and was even student president at his high school.

"I remember putting up election signs before I even had my licence," he said.

The day Harris turned 18, there was an election and he was so excited that he was able to vote. He said he's voted in every election.

Students have no idea how much of an impact they can make if they

get out and vote, he said.

"I know how much impact Conestoga has on our local community; it's massive," said Harris.

The biggest issues concerning students that Harris wants to change are traffic coming in and out of the city, the lack of public transportation and problems for both longtime residents and students in student housing neighbourhoods.

He went to Conestoga, he lives in Kitchener, he works in Kitchener and he pays taxes in Kitchener.

"I know the issues and I'm passionate about the issues."

Harris said he wants to step up and listen to people's concerns.

"I think we need a young, vibrant voice at the table, that's going to speak up and ask questions," he said.

Smile Conestoga, you could be our next respondent!

# Nursing students learn abroad

By KRISTIN GRIFFERTY

There aren't too many programs at Conestoga where you can travel abroad to remote areas in order to obtain a credit, or to gain experience in your area of study.

Owever, four Conestoga nursing adents have been able to do just that.

On Oct. 23, Krista Martin, Leah Schnurr, Brenda Russell and Jessica Igo spoke to an auditorium of approximately 50 students to describe their experiences working abroad. Two of the students earned a credit toward finishing their program, and the other two went simply for the experience.

First to talk to the crowd was Brenda Russell. She travelled to Brazil, Venezuela and to devastated areas of New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina.

Her purpose for travelling was for volunteer experience without obtaining a credit, but according to Russell, she learned more than she could have hoped for.

In Brazil and Venezuela, Russell assisted the poor and the homeless. In addition, she worked in the jungle with Aboriginals and became accustomed to their culture and different ways of life.

In New Orleans, she helped support a community that was trying to survive the devastation and aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

For both placements, Russell simply applied and went through an interview to be placed on a travel team. New Orleans was even simpler as they were so desperate for workers she just applied and was instantly selected.

Russell said her time working was often difficult. "It was sometimes exhaustive because of the hard labour and also emotionally draining because you are constantly being exposed to new situations and especially in Third World countries, there is so much help needed," she said. "It was really hard to work at the orphanage with the children, it absolutely broke my heart."

However, it wasn't all hardships for Russell. When asked whether she would partake in an experience like that again, she was quick to respond. "Absolutely," she said. "I am so happy I have had the opportunity to travel to different places at a young age."

The next speaker was Jessica Igo. Igo travelled to Rwanda and experienced the aftermath of the 1994 genocide. For Igo, it was an experience that fell into her lap by coincidence.

After talking with classmate and fellow volunteer Krista Martin, she found a placement with the Nu-Ministry vocational school to travel to Africa.

This past summer, Igo spent time in the country visiting maternity wards in hospitals and bringing supplies. She was also able to help build a school and a home for some of the locals. Igo said her experience helped her become more prepared for her future nursing placements. "I think I became more aware and witnessed how the determinants of health influence health outcomes," said Igo. "I often think about Rwanda or look at my pictures and I get emotional. I really miss the people there and the opportunities I had to help where I could."

Leah Schnurr, the third student speaker at the seminar, received a credit for her pediatric nursing placement in Uganda.

She used her skills in the new cultural setting by assisting dying children and their families while learning the language and the culture.



(Photo by Kristin Grifferty)

Mary Carley, nursing faculty member, (counterclockwise from top left), along with fourth-year nursing students, Krista Martin, Leah Schnurr, Jessica Igo and Brenda Russell, take part in a presentation on working abroad. The students used skills learned at Conestoga to help others in Third World countries.

Schnurr was given the opportunity to experience a less-developed health-care system while often working independently.

Like the other students, she felt emotionally drained at times, but to her, it was all worth it. "I was very appreciative of the experience and what I've learned about life and nursing," said Schnurr. "Since I left to return to Canada, I have felt that since I know firsthand how many needs exist in Uganda, I need to continue to help them. I cannot just return to my daily life here and forget about everything I have experienced in Uganda."

Krista Martin, the fourth and final student to speak about her experience, discussed her time in Zambia, and what she had learned.

While the other three students used Power Point and photos during their presentation, Martin had to wing it, due to technical difficulties. For her fourth year clinical place-

ment, Martin travelled to Kilani, Zambia and worked in a 158-bed hospital.

She spent most of her time in the men's ward working with TB patients and focusing on the HIV and AIDS epidemic.

While Martin was unavailable for

comment after the presentation, she stated earlier that the nursing style in Zambia differs from Canada's, and how she learned a little of the language from both patients and hospital staff.

All four nursing students spoke with passion about their trips, and had no problem encouraging others to take the same journey.

When asked to describe their trip

in one word, the adjectives ranged from "amazing" to "phenomenal."

Now, those are not words normally used to describe class work, so it may be something worth checking out.

# First reunion for materials program a success

By VANESSA BUTLER

The first reunion for the cross generational materials and operations management program took place on Oct. 21 with great success.

The event was held to celebrate 31 years of the materials and operations management program at Conestoga College.

The reunion was put on by Mike Shipley, treasurer for the alumni association board, as well as the alumni association of Conestoga and the alumni relations associa-

Invited guests were the graduates from the past 31 years.

Guests were treated to a reception, door prizes, a buffet dinner and an awards ceremony with invited speakers.

Originally the program was called materials management, but in 2000 changed to materials and operations management. From

1973 through 1995, the program was taught at the Guelph campus before moving to the Doon cam-

The first graduating class was in 1975 with Bob Salvisburg being the first co-ordinator of the program. Salvisburg was the force behind the program.

The program only had about six to seven graduates in its first year, which from a college point of view, made it a very expensive program to run.

From 1975-2005 there have been 1,101 graduates.

The materials and operations management program is designed to provide graduates with the skills and knowledge necessary to acquire employment in the highly specialized fields of production and inventory control, purchasing, traffic, logistics and value analysis

The materials and operations management diploma is internationally recognized by three professional associations; the Purchasing Management Association of Canada (PMAC), the Educational Society for Resource Management (APICS) and the International Materials Management Society (IMMS). After receiving the materials and

operations management diploma graduates are able to attain advanced standing at the following institutions: Northwood University, Michigan University and Athabasca University in

Tim Kingsbury, a 1982 graduate and alumni of distinction award nominee, was the master of ceremonies for the evening, and also donated a number of the door prizes. Kingsbury is also a member of the planning committee for the reunion.

The focus of the reunion was cross-generational, meaning graduates of all ages attended.

When asked what it felt like to return to the college, a group of 1999 graduates replied, "It feels like we've never left." They noticed that the furniture was more comfortable in the Sanctuary and the addition of the E-wing was new. All of the graduates are currently working in industries related to the program.

Emely Tscholy, a 1994 graduate, said she notices how the program is male dominated. "The more women in the field the better," said Tscholy. "It's really a women friendly program, women are breaking through." Tscholy said that age and gender are irrel-

evant. Jane Lírong, a first-year international student from China, said she is enjoying the program thus far. "I can gain more experience in Canada, and there are a lot more opportunities for me here," said Lirong. "I've learned some methods in China, but there is a different approach to teaching here."

Greg Brown, a 1980 graduate, started off by working in electronics, but is now working in logistics. "It's a very good program," said Brown. "It's worth a lot, and is very flexible."

Shipley said a reunion makes you want to come back. "It's about seeing old people, networking and getting contacts," he said. "It's about seeing what people are doing, and keeping a good connection with the college."

Shipley said Monica Himmelman, executive officer of alumni affairs, and the scholarship department of Conestoga helped plan the event which took about six months to organize. Between getting the proper contact information, contacting the graduates and receiving all the RSVPs, it was a big job, but worth it in the end.

At the reunion, a lifelong achievement award was given to Werner Funkenhauser, a graduate.



(Photo by Vanessa Butler)

Norm Bertrand, past-president of the alumni association, (left to right), Julie Kingsbury and her husband Tim Kingsbury enjoy some social time at the crossgenerational materials and operations management program reunion in the Sanctuary on Oct. 21.

### Universal bus pass a money grab

The proposed introduction of universal bus passes at the college would be a redundant service for most students.

Conestoga Students Inc. (CSI) began sending out surveys to 1,500 students by e-mail on Oct. 25. Their goal is to ascertain how students feel about the idea of universal bus passes.

CSI president, Matt Jackson, said the implementation of the bus pass would require each student to pay a mandatory \$80 yearly fee.

For a bus-riding student, this would be a great deal, since college bus passes currently cost \$185 per semester, which adds up to \$370 for a regular school year.

The universal bus pass would save these students about \$290 a year, or over 78 per cent.

Now it sounds like a sale.

Come get your bus pass! Seventy-eight per cent off!

Everyone loves sales. Everyone. Think about it, consumers get to satisfy their needs, wants and/or desires for less money than normal, and because of the lower prices, more consumers buy the product, which in the end makes the supplier happy.

Realistically, the chance of someone who drives or walks to school suddenly becoming an avid bus user is slim to nil. Nobody in their right mind is going to pay hundreds of dollars a month for a car, and then take the bus to school. Additionally, it will be a sad day when students start to bus to school from residence.

Realistically, the

chance of someone

who drives

or walks to school

suddenly becoming

an avid bus user

is slim to nil.

If universal bus passes are implemented, however, these people will be paying for a service they will rarely, if ever, use.

So who wins here? Well, you could say the 700 or so students who use public transit to get to school. They save a few hundred bucks a year. Good for you. Go have a party.

For the other 89 per cent of the

college's population, they'd be better to each throw four \$20 bills into a giant bonfire. At least that way they could keep warm on a cold day.

It wouldn't matter to Grand River transit, though, because the bonfires are their pocketbooks.

Let's assume these bus passes don't change how many students use public transit regularly. That means only about 11 per cent of the college's 6,269 students rely on buses. The cost for that many students buying college bus passes for a two-semester school year would be \$259,000.

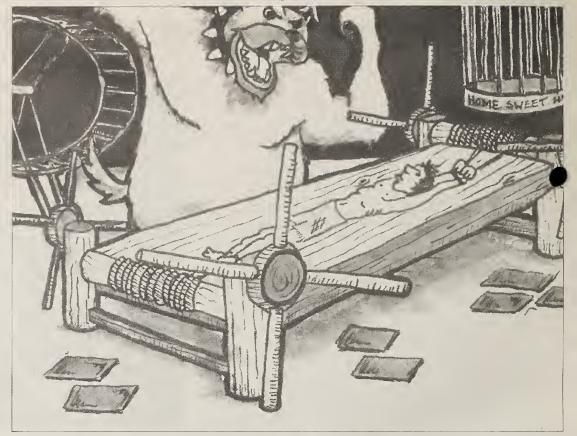
However, if all 6,269 students paid \$80 a year for these passes, that would amount to around \$501,520.

This essentially means GRT would be making an extra \$243,000, approximately, off Conestoga College students each year.

If some of the bus pass fees were kept by CSI, this entire situation would just become more absurd than it already is, if that's even possible.

If the fecs were somehow split between CSI and GRT, it would just be an underhanded way to collect more "administrative fees," without listing them as such.

Whether GRT cash-cow or joint business venture, the implementation of universal bus passes at Conestoga would be nothing short of a money grab.



What has to happen before the penalties for animal cruelty are more severe?

#### Pick on someone your own size

You come home from a long day at the office, give your spouse a kiss on the cheek and whisper into his or her ear that you are treating him or her to a romantic dinner.

After getting all dolled up, you and your spouse get ready to head out the front door. Before you leave the house, you hastily yell and scream at your children to come downstairs. You grab the terrified toddlers by the scruffs of their necks and cram them into a compact crate. Finally, you turn off all the lights and leave the house without giving your children any food or even a drink of water.

You may be thinking the preceding scenario sounds unrealistic and absurd. Unfortunately, there is some truth to this horrible nightmare. Although most people would never mistreat their children in this horrific manner, the reality is hundreds of people in Ontario abuse their family pets like this everyday.

Animal abuse can range from neglect to starvation to physical harm. One extreme example of animal abuse in Ontario is the horrifying legacy of Ralph and Rose Meisner



Benjamin Richmond

Opinion

of Vaughan. For more than 40 years the Meisners have owned and operated unsanitary puppy mills, from which about 600 malnourished dogs have been seized by the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA).

When the SPCA first arrived at the Meisners' farm, several breeds of dogs, both young and old, were found huddled together in filthy pens, quivering from terror. The dogs' fur was filled with fleas and covered with disgusting feces to the severity that their hind ends had to be shaved in order for them to defecate. The puppies, whose eyes were encrusted with infection, were terrified of the slightest human contact, and the adult females were confined to soiled pens, where they lived out their miserable lives.

So how can a convicted couple of animal abusers continue to mistreat helpless dogs for more than 40 years?

The answer is simple; it is because they keep getting away with it. The Meisners' puppy operation has been raided by the SPCA at least 10 times and the couple has been convicted of abuse a total of six times. However, the harshest penalties were only two jail terms of three and two months, which were served by Ralph.

That is the equivalent of someone being found guilty of child or spousal abuse and only getting the proverbial slap on the wrist. Currently, the Criminal Code of Canada states the maximum penalties for convicted offenders of animal abuse are a two-year ban on owning animals, a \$2,000 fine and a six-month jail term.

It is time the laws against animal abuse are toughened. MPs must pass Bill C-50, which would increase the maximum penalties for cruelty to a \$10,000 fine, a five-year jail term and a lifetime ban on owning animals. Animal abusers need to be taught a lesson.

#### Letters are welcome

Spoke welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be signed and include the name and telephone number of the writer. Writers will be contacted for verification.

No unsigned letters will be published. Letters should be no longer than 500 words. **Spoke** reserves the right to edit any letter for publication.

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is published and produced weekly by the journalism students of Conestoga College

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# Program soaring to new heights

#### By ALEX MCNANNEY

The aviation program a Conestoga College is taking off.

The program has had 15 to 20 new students each year since it rted in September 2004. The program underwent an overhaul in 2004, creating an affiliation with the Waterloo Regional Airport.

This means students now get their flight hours within the program. Aviation just put through its first graduating class since the revamp.

According to Bob Connors, the liaison between the college and the Waterloo/Wellington Flight Centre, the aviation industry is flying high.

"Airlines are adding airplanes, airplanes are full of passengers, so times are good," he said.

Connors said the industry has been on an upswing, with outlooks being brighter than they were for the past five years, which saw a downturn because of the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001.

"9/11 was a big factor," he said. Connors said the aviation industry is very sensitive to economic growth or non-growth.

"If the economy goes soft, unemployment goes up, companies don't

make as much money," he said. "Then the first thing that happens is they cut the travel. It's a domino effect."

But the future for the airline industry as far as careers go is very good. Airlines are looking for more pilots with a post-secondary education, which is where Conestoga comes into play.

The aviation program runs at the Doon campus as well as the flight centre at Waterloo Regional Airport. Students are mostly 18 to 22 years of age, with people from all walks of life. Some have pilots in the family and others have a personal interest.

The tuition at the college is \$1,820 per year for the twoyear program, but the big catch is fecs at the flight centre. The cost of renting a plane is \$120 per hour. Add on other administration costs at the flight centre, and the total cost of the program can be a shock.

"It's about \$50,000," Connors said.

He said family support is a big factor in students being able to take the program, because of the heavy fees at the flight centre. He said students who come from families



(Internet photo)

Students from the aviation program at Conestoga apply their skills at the Waterloo Regional Airport.

with lower incomes often find it harder to succeed in the program, because of a lack of funding. He said there are many young people who want to be pilots, but the financial costs are too steep.

A student could try OSAP, but that is usually a sign that the person doesn't have the funding, because the maximum a student can get from OSAP is about \$20,000, leaving the person \$30,000 short.

"A student who is eligible for OSAP probably doesn't have the rest, so it's kind of a catch-22. It's too bad, but there really isn't any way around that."

The students who can get the

financial support arc enjoying the program a lot.

Lindsay Marshall, a graduate of the program, said the students get to fly a lot sooner than one might think.

"Wc (were) flying since the first day of the program," she said.

Mike Berezuk, also a graduate, said the program is a lot fun because you get to work with a lot of people, and also with your friends where in other programs you're competing against each other.

Marshall agreed, saying her and Berezuk's class were close.

"There were about 20 of us that

just stuck together," she said.

Both now have their commercial and private licences and both have gone on some interesting travels.

Berezuk has flown all around the arca, going as far as Dayton, Ohio and Montreal, Que.

Marshall has flown to the Bahamas.

Jaimee Shocmaker and Jesse Jantzi, both first years in the program, are also enjoying it. On the first day, Jesse proved being a pilot doesn't have to run in the family.

"I flew the first day, and I had absolutely no flying experience," Jantzi said.

Both agreed the program is a lot of work, requiring a dedicated commitment to the flight studying.

"If you don't keep up on it, you're going to fall behind,"

Shocmaker said.

Shoemaker also thinks more women need to take the program, because the ratio between genders

is noticeable.

"I'm the only female student in our class," she said, adding because of the equality standards in all workplaces in Canada, she gets a leg up on her peers.

"It's sad to say, but it's true," she said.

# Holiday shopping made easy at ECE Christmas bazaar

#### By AMY MEADOWS

An early childhood educator at Conestoga College's Doon campus child-care centre said the Christmas bazaar, being held from Nov. 10-16, is the perfect opportunity for some early holiday shopping.

Mary Youden said this year's bazaar will be bigger than previous

"This is the first year we have gone all out," she said. "For the past three years we have just had the Scholastic book fair."

The bazaar, held every year, is a chance for the centre to raise money for new equipment, this year in particular, for new climbing apparatus.

"The indoor climbing apparatus is old, so we will do a little fundraising for that as it can get very pricey," Youden said.

In addition to the Scholastic book fair, the event will feature a week-long pizza event, Focus and Discovery toy stands, Creative Memories (one of the originators of scrap booking) and Reids Candy Shop located in Cambridge.

"We are a nut-free centre, so everything from the candy store will be individually wrapped," said Youden.

Other items available for purchase will be something called treasure books.

These booklets contain coupons various restaurants and golf courses around the community.

On Nov. 15, an invitation-only fundraising event will be held at Scholars Choice Store. The event will run from 8 p.m. until 10 p.m. The ECE centre will get 15 per cent of the profit that night.

Those interested in an invite

should go to the ECE centre and ask for an invitation.

Youden and the other early childhood educators are hoping for a better turnout than the last fundraising event they held.

"It was during the (OPSEU) strike which put a damper on things as people weren't sure if they could get on site," she said.

Traditionally, bazaars feature craft vendors, but Youden said they have been unable to book anyone to fill such a position.

"If there is someone who does crafts and wants to come and take part that week, it would be great."

Mary Youden, early childhood educator, Doon campus child-care centre

"We would love to get some craft vendors in," she said. "If there is someone who does crafts and wants to come and take part that week, it would be great."

Going by the money raised two events ago, at the Scholastic book fair in the centre, the upcoming bazaar should be a success.

"We made around \$1,500 at that event, which is very good," she said.

"Hopefully this one will be even

She added that college students are more than welcome to drop by and show their support on Nov. 13 from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m.

"We will be set up at the front of the centre," said Youden. "Someone will be around to help you between those time."

#### the learning commons

Peer Services

Learning Skills Service

Writing Services

#### Peer Supported Learning Groups Fall 2006 Schedule

PSLGs are FREE weekly study sessions that are designed to help students through historically difficult courses. They offer a chance to meet with a tutor and other classmates to compare notes, discuss concepts, develop learning strategies, and prepare for exams! This semester, PSLGs are offered in the following courses:

Office for one way a series			
Course	Leader	Day/ time	Room
MET Math 1	Anthony	Thursdays @9-10 Mondays @4-5 (new)	2A405 3A511
CIVIL Math 1 & Statics	Jason	Mondays @1-2	2A507
PN A&P 1 & Math	Shannon	Thursdays @11-12	1023
BScN A&P	Nabil, Angus	Mondays @ 1-2 Mondays @ 2-3	2D16 2D16
GAS Chemistry & Biology	Elena	Thursdays @11-12	1D05
CONSTRUCTION Math 1 & Physics Statics	Lindsay Tristan	Wednesdays @10-11 Wednesdays @5-6 (new)	2A617 2A617
EET & CET Physics & Math	Stephen	Mondays @2-3	2A507
HO ADM. A&P	Pamela	Tuesdays @2-3	2003

#### Learning Groups start the week of October 2

unless otherwise indicated and meet each week until the week of December 4 (based upon attendance).

Please note that this schedule is subject to change.

Please note that this schedule aims to accommodate as many students as possible, but is unable to meet all needs.



Learning Commons
Temporary Located in 1B36 (In the Sanctuary)
Hours of Operation: 8:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

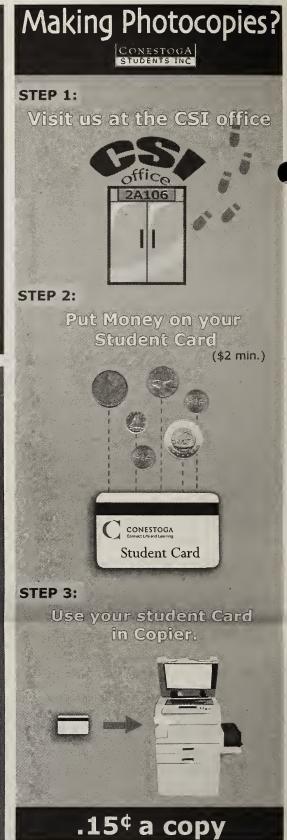
**Telephone:** 519-748-5220 extension 2308

Website:

http://www.conestogac.on.ca/jsp/stserv/learningcommons/index.jsp











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#### TIME SLOTS

Monday, October 30th- Friday, November 10 - MEDIA LIBERAL STUDIES

Monday, November 13th - Friday December 1 - ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

Monday, December 4th - Friday, December 15 - INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Monday, January 8 - Friday, February 2 - SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

sign up at the CSI office



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November 29th- December 1st





# Relieving stress with meditation



(Photo by Tiffany McCormick)

Second-year occupational therapy assistant/physiotherapy assistant students Kristi Scwab and Sabrina Poplawski relax at the Chillax Progressive Muscle Relaxation workshop in the E-wing on Oct. 27. The workshop was held by Student Services.

#### By TIFFANY MCCORMICK

Ohm, inhale, exhale, let your mind become blank and your body weightless.

Meditation has been used for hundreds of years in many cultures for reasons such as peace of mind, greater control over the mind and to relieve stress and anxiety.

Conestoga's first ever meditation program, Mindfulness Meditation, aims to help students in those aspects by building on focus and attention of breathing and mindfully observing the body through sitting, standing and walking meditation.

Lynn Woodford, a new Student Services counsellor, creator and instructor of the program, said meditation is a powerful tool which allows people to be aware of their stress and decrease their automatic reactions to things.

"Anything we can do to help students manage stress will be helpful," she said, adding that "sharing the wonderful skills and opportunities for students to develop strategies and become aware of themselves and deal with stress in a positive manner" is one of the reasons why she started the program.

She said a lot of students are currently stressed out and this program will be a valuable tool enabling them to "develop awareness and focus without judgment."

Woodford, who has been a psychologist for 12 years, used meditation in other schools where she worked and said it is a good tool in both her occupation and personal life.

'It allows you to see, think and

react more clearly to whatever life is bringing you," she said.

Woodford said she hopes stu-

Woodford said she hopes students who attend will walk away with the understanding that they can use mediation in their everyday lives.

"I hope they're able to experience the positive aspect of meditation that allows them to take away concrete and useful skills they can use."

The first session on Oct. 25 consisted of a quick breakdown of what will take place in the next six weeks, what the purpose behind mindful meditation is, its background and foundations and what the students hope to get out of the sessions.

The six participants' first form of meditation was a breathing exercise for 20 minutes. During that time they were asked not to think of anything, but to focus on their breathing.

Woodford guided them through the exercise reminding them to concentrate on their breathing especially when they began to feel distracted or thoughts entered their minds.

The exercise was a fundamental base which allows people to develop more focus enabling them to build up to full concentration.

No student was able to completely focus for the entire 20 minutes but was assigned to meditate the same way for 15 minutes each day until the next class.

Each week will build upon the previous session, introducing new steps of meditation.

Second-year office administration executive student, Jessie Houston, said she began sporadic meditation approximately six years ago to help with relaxation and to deal with a lot of stress she was facing.

"I'm always doing or thinking of something," she said, adding that by attending the meditation sessions she hopes to be able "calm down and slow down."

Abused as a child, Houston heard of the classes from a Student Services counsellor who suggested she attend. Houston said the abuse she suffered still affects her daily life.

Of the first session, Houston said it was very interesting.

"I felt like I was floating," she said of the breathing exercise. "It was like I was moving out of my body."

She plans to attend each weekly session and feels that meditation is a good way for people to take control of a situation to help themselves.

"It's a very good way to do internal healing," she said.

Susan Csisztu, a first-year office administration executive student, said she wants to learn how to meditate to help decrease the stress in her life and the physical pain she endures from carrying her books.

"I need something to relax myself," she said.

Csisztu, who also plans on attending each session, said she's looking forward to learning the different types and ways to medite.

"If you learn it once you can use it anywhere," she said.

The meetings will be held every Wednesday until Nov. 29 in Room 3-E01. There is no limit as to how many people are allowed to attend and drop-ins are welcome.

#### Students have opportunity to jump-start their business plans

By PEGGY O'NEILL

For Conestoga College students who have a business plan they would like to jump-start, the LaunchPad 50K Venture Creation

Competition should be of interest.

The competition is for students of Conestoga College and Wilfrid Laurier, Waterloo and Guelph universities. Community members and alumni associates can also join a team, create a business plan and start successful businesses.

LaunchPad was started in 2004 by Wilfrid Laurier University and the University of Waterloo and in 2005 it expanded to Conestoga and Guelph.

At the end of the competition cash prizes are given out to the top three teams totalling \$50,000, which goes toward launching each team's business plan. Each team must consist of two students from two of the four institutions, and they must play a meaningful role.

Conestoga's spokesperson for the competition is third-year management student, Keith McIntosh, and his job is to make sure that all the students at Conestoga are well informed about this opportunity.

McIntosh had info booths set up at the school on Oct. 20 and 23. He said there were many people interested in his booth, and not just business students.

"Any kind of student can join a team," he said. "We can match up someone in engineering, accounting or business to form a team."

One of the rules for the competition is you can't be a school organizer and enter the competition. McIntosh said he would like to join the actual competition next year.

"I've had a good time networking and meeting different people, and the \$50,000 is pretty motivating," he said.

The four different schools are also putting on a number of free workshops to coach teams and organizers about leadership, management and every other skill that is needed in the LaunchPad 50K competition.

Barbara Rice was the presenter at the workshop that was held on Oct. 24 at Conestoga College, one of the many free workshops being held at the four institutions. Rice talked about all the different

stages of team development and gave many other pointers for individuals looking to join a team.

"LaunchPad is the mentoring and the helping and the experience," she said.

"LaunchPad is the mentoring and the experience."

Barbara Rice, workshop presenter

Rice said Conestoga didn't make it to the finals last year, but they certainly had a presence. "We already have a better awareness, so we can build on that momentum," she said.

The next workshop is on Nov. at 5:30 p.m. at the University Waterloo and the deadline to register is Dec. 8 at noon.

For more information about LaunchPad contact Keith McIntosh at organizer-conestogac@launchpad50k.ca or visit www.launchpad50k.ca.

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# These essential tips for winter driving will keep you safe

#### By CHRISTOPHER MILLS

Winter is knocking and Christmas is just around the corner, Unfortunately, so are snowstorms and icy roads.

It is no surprise that the number of automobile accidents rises in the winter. Poor driving conditions, reduced visibility and aggressive drivers can create some dangerous - and even deadly - situations.

Both Transport Canada and the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario have released nearly identical lists with essential tips for winter driving. The key points contained on both lists are as follows:

- Always keep your gas tank at least half-full, and make sure to top up anti-freeze, as well as brake, transmission and windshield-washer fluids
- Use a matching set of tires, ideally snow tires
- Dress warmly and keep extra blankets in your car
- Keep a winter emergency kit, including: extra fluids for your vehicle; a flashlight and extra batteries; blankets; a candle and matches; extra hats and mittens; hazard markers or flares; and chocolate or granola bars
- Check local weather and road conditions before leaving
- Carry a map and be prepared to take alternate routes
- Most importantly, carry a charged cellphone

A cellphone is useful if a motorist finds himself in trouble, but, according to the government, the best way to avoid such troubles and prevent accidents is to equip your vehicle with snow tires.

Transport Canada adopted an industry standard in 1999 to assist Canadian drivers in identifying and purchasing snow tires that offer increased traction in Canada's harsh winter conditions. Any tire that has met snow traction performance requirements and has been designed specifically for use in severe snow conditions will bear the department's seal of approval: a pictograph of a mountain with a giant snowflake on the side.

The government also reminds people that all-season tires can still provide safe driving, but there is no guarantee they will provide a necessary level of traction in severe snowstorms. However, no matter which tire a motorist decides to go with, Transport Canada stresses the importance of making sure all four tires are the same, and that drivers should keep a close eye on tread and air pressure. Air pressure in tires drops in cold weather, reducing tread life and increasing fuel consumption.

Dave Brown, a Kitchener resident and automobile aficionado, says he has been putting snow tires on his car cach winter for the past 12 years.

"A lot of tires these days, they call themselves all-season, but they're not," he said. "When I used the traditional type of snow tire, I was able to hack through foot-deep snow."

By traditional, Brown is referring to older-style snow tires that were made of a harder rubber and featured large treads.

"Aggressive tread snow tires, they'll last for 8-10 years, but newer tires are made of a softer compound so they wear on pavement," Brown said. "The new tires also use all kinds of new technology. Some even have bits of shells mixed in with the rubber."

The shells Brown speaks of are cashew shells, and are not themselves mixed in with the rubber, but rather what is known as cashew nut shell liquid (CNSL). Scientists have discovered that CNSL, after being scientifically removed from the cashew shell and applied to rubber products, can actually improve the resistance of such products to cracking and ozone degradation.

This new technology improves the quality of winter tires, but as Brown mentioned, they wear more quickly on pavement. However, according to the Rubber Association of Canada, all-season tires stiffen and lose gripping power around zero Celsius, so there is a trade-off.

On their website (http://www.safety-council.org/info/traffic/snowtires.html), the Canadian Safety Council reminds drivers that attempting to use any tire all year long increases safety risks. Changing tires for the winter season is important.

Upgrading your vehicle will increase your safety this winter, but all the new equipment and technologies are no substitution for smart and attentive driving. As you go about your seasonal excursions, remember to always keep a safe distance from the car in front of you, use good judgment when driving in reduced visibility, always wear your seatbelt and beware of black ice and snow when driving at increased speeds and passing other vehicles.

Following these tips for personal and vehicle safety will help ensure a safe and healthy holiday season for everyone and make sure we all live to see the spring.

For further safety tips, visit Transport Canada's website at http://www.tc.gc.ca/road/WinterDriving/menu.htm.



(Internet photo)

With winter just around the corner, Canadian drivers should remember to slow down when the snow starts to fly.

#### WHEN DATING TURNS DANGEROUS

#### The early signs of abuse

It's so easy to get carried away with the excitement of a new relationship.

Often, this exhilaration prevents us from detecting some of the early signs of abuse.

Here are some warning signals to look for:

Your partner may be abusive if he or she:

- Wants to know where you are and who you are with at all times
- Becomes very angry about trivial things, like not being ready on time or wearing the "wrong" clothes
- Criticizes your friends and asks you to stop seeing them
- Has traditional ideas about hurting you, hurting your friends or committing suicide if you don't obey or decide to leave.
- Has ever hit you, no matter how sorry afterwards

If you recognize these behaviours in your partner, you may be in a dangerous relationship. Counsellors are available in the Counselling Office, Doon Campus, Room 1A103, 748-5220 ext 3360, Guelph Campus, Admin. Office, 824-9390 ext. 148 or Waterloo Campus, Room 1C04, 885-0300 ext. 224. Information on community support is available through your Counselling Office.



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# Tainted veggies don't deter sales

Despite the latest E. coli scare, the owner of Kara's Smart Foods, says people haven't stopped buying produce

#### By JESSICA BLUMENTHAL

There will always be some food item that isn't healthy or safe for people to eat, said a local produce vendor.

First it was beef, then it was chicken. Most recently, spinach and carrot juice are the products being targeted said Gerald Kara, owner of Kara's Smart Foods.

When Kara got an e-mail from

the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, stating people were getting E. coli from bagged spinach from California, he refunded people's money and threw out what he had left of the spinach.

"Customers didn't really react when they heard about the outbreak, people are not as shocked anymore when outbreaks occur," said Kara.

There were outbreaks of E. coli

in both spinach and organic carrot juice in September and October which resulted in three deaths and more than 200 people falling ill, including Toronto-area residents.

He said there are standards put in place but sometimes things happen.

Vegetables aren't the culprits of the E. coli, it comes from the pesticides and materials used to farm the vegetables, he said.

Kelly Sprague, who's a vegetari-

an and has been eating only organic food for eight years, said she's not going to stop eating vegetables because they contain essential nutrients and outbreaks don't happen all the time.

"People are not as shocked anymore when outbreaks occur."

Gerald Kara, owner of Kara's Smart Foods

"The benefits outweigh the risks

and that's a gamble 1'm willing to take," said the Guelph resident.

She has her own vegetable garden and tries to eat her own produce as much as possible.

"The chemicals and pesticides that are put on fruits and vegetables aren't good for anyone. They're bad for the environment, animals and people."

Sprague thinks a lot of problems could be solved if farmers stopped using chemicals and pesticides.

"Everyone would profit from taking a closer look on how produce is farmed," she said.



**New LCBO wows** 

The largest LCBO in southwestern Ontario opened in downtown Waterloo on Oct. 24. The new location, located at King and William streets, carries almost 2,100 products, many available chilled. Waterloo mayor Herb Epp (left) said he is happy with the final product and he looks forward to the completion of the rest of the new town square.

He said it should be a popular place during the upcoming holiday season.

(Photo submitted)

Students run to raise money

Police foundations and LASA students raised money for the Catfish Creek Conservation Authority in Aylmer, Ont. by doing a six-kilometre fun run on Oct. 25 at the Ontario Police College in Alymer. Overall, participants raised \$12,000 for the cause.

# Halloween hot at Revolution

#### By JORDEN FELICIANO

Revolution held two Halloween theme parties Oct. 27 and 28 which were both very animated and successful

Friday night was their weekly 19 and over event and a large number of people wore all sorts of different costumes, from housemaids to doc-

Saturday night was their weekly 21 and over event and had a costume contest which featured a human sized toothbrush and naughty nurses, so you can imagine what the rest of the costumes were like.

People in attendance both nights seemed to be having a lot of fun and there weren't any crowd problems as there are on most weekends.

"I was surprised I didn't see one fight," said Lorenzo Castiglione, 21, of Cambridge who attended both nights.

Castiglione said normally on a Friday night, one or two fights will break out involving a significant number of people near closing time.

"It gets annoying because at the end of the night you're starting to wind down after having a good time, and then all these wild people start fighting, making it uncomfortable for everyone," said Castiglione.

Although both nights went smoothly, without any major incidents, it didn't stop some partygoers in rival costumes from throwing a couple of shots.

On Saturday night, two gladiators battled it out on the dance floor, much to the pleasure of the crowd.

One of the gladiators, Eric Shaw, 22, a business student at Conestoga College, felt he won that battle.

"I definitely took that," said Shaw. "He had nothing on me."

When asked how he felt the night went, Shaw said he was surprised at how much fun he had.

"I knew it would be a decent night because I was there with a lot of friends," said Shaw. "But then more people I knew were there, and most of them were dressed up which made the party even more fun."

Shaw also attributed how well the evening went to the music that was playing

"I always find there are more problems in the crowd when there's aggressive rap or rock music on," said Shaw. "On Saturday they played a lot more up tempo dance and hip hop music, and, judging by the crowd, that made it a lot more enjoyable for everyone."

#### Memorial honours firefighters

#### By ROSS ALDWORTH

The Kitchener Professional Firefighters Association held their annual Firefighters' Memorial Day on Oct. 29 at Civic Centre Park.

The second annual event included a parade of firefighters and other emergency workers.

Featured in the parade were antique fire engines, the Toronto Fire Service's Pipes and Drums Band and the Waterloo Regional Police Service Colour Guard.

Event co-ordinator Kevin Schmalz said the event honoured the memory and sacrifice made by fallen firefighters and their families while celebrating the service all firefighters provide the community.

The award-winning Kitchener Fallen Firefighters Memorial, created by local artist Timothy P. Schmalz, is a focal point of the park located on Queen Street, adjacent to the Centre in the Square and the Kitchener Public Library.

Interest in a local firefighter's memorial was sparked by the 9-11 attacks and immediately supported by the Kitchener Professional Firefighters Association.

The large bronze memorial is almost four metres tall and depicts a group of firefighters framed by the wings of two

Interest in a local firefighter's memorial was sparked by the 9-11 attacks.

weeping angels.

"We are grateful for the generous support of the community, which made this project possible," said Schmalz."

The thousands of dollars required to build the memorial were gathered through fundraising by the association. The memorial was then donated back to the community, along with a fire education-themed playground.



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# Halloween Bash haunted with creativity

By JON MOLSON

Pop culture icons, ranging in diversity from Darth Vader to the Mario Brothers, came to life at this year's annual Halloween Bash. More than 300 people were in attendance for the event, which was held by CS1 in the Sanctuary on Oct. 26. "I was very pleased with the turnout," said Lindsay Silva, the events programmer for CSI. "The Halloween Bash is usually a successful event and we didn't have to turn anyone down at the doors this year, so overall it was very successful."

Dan Schuett, a third-year architecture facility project management student, demonstrates the force at the Halloween Bash.

students and n o n - s t u dents alike got into the spirit of Halloween by showing off their creativity as well as passion for dressing up. Costumes of shapes, sizes, colours

and types were exhibited. Partygoers, featuring homemade and store purchased attires, could be found mingling, dancing and expressing admiration for some of the more distinctive costumes sported at the

This year CS1 set up a beer bin which helped reduce lineups at the main bar. There were also prizes awarded for the three best costumes, which consisted of a competition between 10 student finalists. selected by CSI. The three winners were decided through the audience's applause. First prize was a trip to Montreal given away by Breakaway Tours, second prize was a pair of Toronto Maple Leafs tickets donated by the college's alumni association and the third prize were two movie passes donated by CSI.

A student dressed as Jack Sparrow, from the popular Disney movie series Pirates of the Caribbean, won best costume, while the runner-up was a female Mountie and third place was shared between two students, one dressed as Mario and the other as Joker. Both received two movie passes apiece.

Silva said determining the best costumes was the hardest thing she had to go through at the event.

"It was really difficult to choose the best costume this year and we just went by applause from the audience because it was impossible for us to decide," she said. "People just came out with so much creativity and put so much time and effort into their costumes, it was fantastic. The attitude, the creativity and the costumes were unbelievable.

She said there are a few reasons why the Halloween Bash is so popular.

"Students enjoy dressing up and being different and finding their inner creativity," Silva said. "No one goes to the Halloween party to judge others, it is their time to be themselves and be creative.'

Andrew Goudy, a second-year police foundations student, dressed as Mario at the Halloween Bash and was the co-winner for third best costume. He came to the event with his girlfriend, Corissa Ford, who dressed up as Princess Toadstool.

He said this is the first time they have teamed up for a Halloween costume party.

"We figured it would be fun to come as a couple," Goudy said. "We've been dating for like five years, so we might as well come as a couple."

Goudy thinks dressing up for these events makes them more enjoyable.

"It's fun because everybody gets to dress in the role and a Halloween costume is basically like their own personality. I've always been really into video games, so obviously I will come as Mario," he said. "There really is no best part, it is an all-inall good time.

Goudy made his costume himself,

"First of all I bleached the pants, then I dyed them and then I bought a red shirt and gloves," he said. "There is this store in Preston (Cambridge) that sells all sorts of Halloween costumes and there was, the best way to describe it, a Skipper hat and I took a red shirt and wrapped it around the hat. For some reason, we've always had this wig at my house and I put mascara in my eyebrows and I glued the moustache on It worked out well."

Ford, a first-year nursing student, said this is the first time she has been to the Hallowcen Bash.

"I'm two years younger, so I haven't been able to officially go out to a bar or anything like this where you can be together and dress up together," she said. "We

went to the Toga Party the last time it was here, but so far I'm having more fun (at the Halloween Bash), I came with more friends, so I'm enjoying myself."

Mike Cowling, a second-year general arts and science student, also was awarded the third best costume for his Joker costume. This is the first time he has been to the Halloween Bash.

"I didn't get to go last year, as I had to work, so I was kind of out of luck, but this is the first time I've been out to anything Halloween in a long time and it is very enjoyable," Cowling said. "It's fun, it's not even Halloween and you get to dress up and just party for the night.'

It took him more than an hour to get ready for the event and he spent upwards of \$100 for the costume as well as accessories. Cowling, when putting the costume together, researched some of the more

famous depictions of the character, including Jack Nicholson in Tim Burton's 1989 Batman movie. Cowling was so determined achieve a realis-

tic portrayal that he dyed his hair green.

Cowling said he has always loved the Joker.

"He is one of my favourite fictitious characters and it must have been a month ago that I decided I'm going to be the Joker for Halloween," he said. "He is evil, yet he is funny, there is this great hypocrisy between him. He loves to laugh, but he loves to be psychotic. He is completely insane and it gives me a night to be completely insane and I love that.'

Cowling thinks it is better to have a homemade costume.

"It is kind of lame just going out and grabbing something off the shelf," he said. "It adds more of you into it, it is not just something you bought, it's actually part of you. I spent all today walking around with purple hands because I dyed the suit pur-

He said it was worth all of the trouble and plans on dressing up as the Joker again for future Halloween events.

"I want to use this costume next year because I love it," Cowling said. "I spent a lot of money, so I still want to use it.'

Next year the Halloween Bash will be held in the new Student Life Centre.



Andrew Goudy, second-year police foundations, and Corissa Ford, a first-year nursing student, co-ordinated their costumes for the first time by coming as Mario and Princess Toadstool.



Mike Cowling, a second-year general arts and science student, displays his best Joker pose, while playing pool in the Sanctuary.

Photos by Jon Molson



Joseph Miro, a second-year law and security administration student, shows off his costume of the Jigsaw killer from the popular movie series Saw.



#### Going to the zoo

Left: The rufous-banded owl reaches about 35 cm in height and lives in parts of South America like Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia. It feeds on small mammals, small birds, fish, amphibians, moths, worms and insects. They lay their eggs generally in tree hollows or in old nests of large hawks.

Right: The African lion primarily preys on herded animals such as zebras, antelope and wildebeests, although they will prey on smaller animals such as snakes and insects if larger animals become scarce.

Below right: The slender-tailed meerkat can be found in parts of Botswana, South Africa, Lesotho, Swaziland, Namibia and Angola in dry, sandy plains, open grasslands and also in some rocky areas. Meerkats live in large colonies.







Week of October 30

- Chain Hang Low (Kids)
- I Know You See It (A Cappella)
- Lips of an Angel
- Money In The Bank
- Lil' Scrappy
  Money Maker (Pharrell Chorus)

- Shoulder Lean (feat. T.I.)

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Above: The common marmoset lives in most Amazon regions of South America. It feeds on vegetation, fruit, insects, spiders, small birds and bird's eggs. Marmosets organize their lives around their families. Neither the male nor the female of the pair will tolerate rivals for the attention of their mate, and are very efficient in raising large numbers of offspring.

Bottom: The North American river otter is amphibious and prefers to spend its life chiefly along rivers, larger creeks and lakes. They mostly eat fish but also feed on frogs, mud puppies, crayfish, clams and insects.

Far right: Renauld's ground cuckoo grow no bigger than a chicken, but its colour blends in with the forest background, protecting it from predators. It can be found in Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam.

> Photos by **Adam Black**









# The zoo review

"The kids love it."

Michael Miller,

zoo visitor

#### By ERIC MURPHY

The Metro Toronto Zoo devours all competition when compared to other fall and winter attractions.

Animal fans of all ages arrived at the zoo decked out in their costumes for a Halloween event called Boo at the Zoo on Oct 28 and 29.

The event, which was free of charge for all children under the age of 12 in costume, featured games including ring toss

and mini golf, a pumpkin-carving contest and actors in costumes doing card and magic tricks. The event was held to show that the zoo is more than just a summer attraction said Kate Gray, public relations co-ordinator.

"There really isn't any competition for attractions during the off-season," said Gray. "These sort of events show people that we're still open during fall and winter and do events like this all year-round."

Gray said off-season events also give people the opportunity to see how the animals react to fall and winter weather compared to the warm temperatures

of a typical summer visit.

"The zoo is a great venue and there's always so much to do besides just looking at

the animals." she said. "Of course, we're for the animals and besides educating and conserving we also like to entertain and give visitors and members something fresh all of the time."

Zoo visitor Michael Miller said it's great to come out to events like this at the zoo.

"We have a membership here so we try to come as often as we can," said Miller. "The kids love it."







(Photos by Eric Murphy)

The Metro Toronto Zoo held a Halloween event called Boo at the Zoo on Oct. 28 and 29. All children under age 12 in costume entered free of charge.

Top left: Ella Miller pounces on her brother Devon while enjoying events at Bog at the Zoo.

# Do you have a smell for art?

#### By TARA RICKER

Who knew manure and art mixed? Local artist Natalie Prévost-Mero packs pottery with dung, preferable horse dung, during wood firing, an art form which she is continually perfecting.

"From as far back as I can remember I loved playing in the mud and cow patties and with fire," said

Using poop infuses her pieces with some of the ethereal, cloud-like patterns, which make them so unique.

Prévost-Mcro discovered pottery after working a string of unfulfilling jobs and yearning for something more. She mostly taught herself the art of pottery and branched out on her own under the name The Barefoot Potter 10 years ago.

"Pottery was the only thing I was good at," she said. "I like learning by trial and error."

It's taken Prévost-Mero a couple of years of trying all kinds of things to get the results she wanted in her smoke firing.

"I have experimented with different poops, salts, oxides and wood," she said. "I go from one extreme to another; the smoke fired pots are rustic, experimental and unpre-

dictable with explosions, cracks and no colour,"

Prévost-Mero's studio is located in Elmira where the public is welcome to view her pieces but they must call in advance to arrange an appointment.

Her one-of-a-kind art pieces also include Raku dresses, which are inspired by the 1920s and 1960s.

"I've always found other eras more interesting than the one I grew up in," she said. "I couldn't find the clothes that I wanted so I decided to make them myself out of clay."

She uses women like Veronica Lake, Jean Harlow and Rita Hayworth as inspirations for her Raku dresses.

"I like to attach a photo of these phenomenal but sadly not so recognizable women to the dresses."

Raku is an ancient Japanese way of firing. It was introduced for tea ceremonies in the 16th century. The word Raku has many different meanings. The one that Prévost-Mero uses in her workshops is "happiness through chance." In other words, it means leaving out the perfectionist way of doing pottery and firing in a more primitive and direct way. The actual firing method is direct handling of pots in a fast glaze

firing cycle that requires the use of spontaneity and experimentation.

Prévost-Mero's artwork is currently on display at The Canadian Clay and Glass Gallery, the Hamilton Gallery and the Marten Arts Gallery in Bayfield.

Her work was also on display at the fourth annual Kissing Bridge Trail Studio Tour on Oct. 28 and 29.

Art lovers were given the chance to visit some of the area's artists in their homes and studios by participating in the tour, which included stops in Elmira, St. Jacobs, West Montrose, Conestogo and Wallenstein.

The Kissing Bridge Trail Studio Tour is named after one of the oldest covered bridges in the area.

The tour has become a popular event drawing visitors from all over the region. So while the artists are always local, the spectators certainly aren't.

"People have come from as far as New York City and Toronto," said Prévost-Mero, who is also one of the organizers of the tour.

Prévost-Mero studio was one of 11 stops along the tour.

"The tour offers something different that Elmira and the surrounding area is not necessarily known for,"



(Photo by Tara Ricker)

Local artists Lisa Dietrich, Shannon Holton and Kerry Stumpf opened their doors to the community during the fourth annual Kissing Bridge Trail Studio Tour held on Oct. 28 and 29.

she said. "The area does have more to offer then just agriculture."

Prévost-Mero said there are about 150 artists in the area where the tour takes place.

Lisa Dietrich, Shannon Holton and Kerry Stumpf were first-time tour participants.

"We decided to take part in the tour this year because of all the hype," said Holton.

The three own a co-operative stu-

dio in Elmira which features an eclectic collection of handmade pottery, stained glass, organic soap and body care products.

"It's a great opportunity to share the joy and excitement we put into our pieces with the rest of the community," said Dietrich. For more information on local artists or the Kissing Bridge Tour visit www.kbtstudiotour.ca, www.thebarefootpotter.ca or shnig@golden.net.

#### Counsellor's Corner - STALKING

Stalking is a **crime** that happens more on college campuses than in the general population.

#### What is It?

Researchers in a national survey of college students in the U.S., defined stalking as: "Repeatedly following, watching, phoning, writing, e-mailing or otherwise communicating with someone in a way that seemed obsessive and caused fear or concern for personal safety".

#### Who are stalkers?

Stalkers tend to fall into three categories:

- 1. Ex-partners: were in an intimate relationship with the victim
- 2. Delusional stalkers: frequently have had little or no contact but are under the delusion that the victim is in love with them
- 3. Vengeful stalkers: are angry with the victim over some slight, whether it is real or imagined (could be argument, poor grade on a paper)

Statistically most stalkers are males who have been rejected by women but males can be victims too. College women are more likely to be stalked by someone they know; either someone they had an intimate relationship with or with whom they had casual contact (i.e. a classmate). Male victims often feel more menaced than endangered

Stalking is seen as a way to get power and control over a victim.

#### What Can You Do?

The following are some suggestions if you are being stalked. The most important thirty is to be aware and get support.

- 1. Do not minimize or ignore unwanted behaviour.
- 2. Respond firmly that you do not want further contact.
- 3 Report threats to Campus Security and/or the Police. If the stalker is a Conestoga College student, their behaviour is against the Student Code of Conduct and college sanctions may apply. Campus Security can also help you in dealing with a non-college stalker.
- 4. Protect your private information (home/cell phone no., e-mail address, address)
- 5. Gather evidence (e.g. save e-mails, unwanted gifts, voice mail) and document what you have tried to do in the situation.
- 6. You may need support in dealing with the stress of being stalked. Make an appointment to see a counsellor in **Student Services** for support and advice.

A Message from Student Services
Visit our website <a href="http://www.conestogac.on.ca/jsp/stserv/index.jsp">http://www.conestogac.on.ca/jsp/stserv/index.jsp</a>

#### Book commemorates Centre in the Square

#### By NATALIE ANDERSON

Although last year was Centre in the Square's 25th anniversary, the book commemorating its history was just released on Oct. 25 of this year.

Centre in the Square: 25 Years of Memorable Experiences is available at the theatre for \$42.50 and all proceeds go toward funding programs.

"We've been working for two years now and we're finally ready to launch today so it's very exciting and a lot of fun," Jaime Grant, general manager of Centre in the Square, said at the book's launch.

Grant said the book is a retrospective look on how Kitchener's Centre in the Square was built, how it came to be and the artists who have played there.

"There are recollections from a bunch of people who have performed here and a lot of great photographs from people who have been here (like Tony Bennett and Celine Dion)," he said.

Grant said the stories and photographs come from a wide variety of people.

"it's amazing when you look back and you realize how many people have played here, and really famous people," he said. "It's really cool."

The author of the book, Lynn Boland Richardson, said she is very pleased with its outcome.

Richardson spent two years interviewing past performers such as Alice Cooper and Tom Jones, but she said the most fun she had was doing the research.

"There's nothing more fun for me than getting into archives and digging," she said.

Richardson said she was happy to

do the book because she loved coming to the Centre in the Square when she was young.

"It was always a real pleasure to come here, even when I was young I knew it was something special," she said. "It was a gift and I never took it for granted."

Carl Zehr, mayor of Kitchener, who attended and spoke at the launch, said he only looked over the book briefly but was looking forward to sitting down and reading through it.

Zehr, who is on the Centre in the Square's board of directors, has been associated with the centre for 19 of its 25 years and believes it's a very important part of the community

"Centre in the Square is an icon," he said. "It's a symbol of what arts and culture are in this community. It's a building but it's more than that obviously. It's the kind of entertainment and the life that goes on here that makes it what it is."



(Photo by Natalie Anderson)

Author Lynn Boland
Richardson was featured at a
book signing at the Centre in
the Square in Kitchener on
Oct. 25. Her latest book commemorates the theatre's
history.

# Not quite 'Man of the Year'



(Internet photo

Robin Williams brings some humour into the world of politics in

#### By SAMANTHA SAECHAO

Robin Williams. When you hear that name you automatically think of a top actor who plays (mainly) funny roles, cracking jokes that make you laugh.

In his latest movie, Man of the Year, the jokes were few and far between, and many missed the mark. Don't get me wrong, Williams is amazing, but this movie just dragged on a little too long at one hour and 55 minutes and it wasn't as comedic as it appeared in the movie trailers. It seemed more like a thriller with comedic parts in it to relieve the tension.

Man of the Year is about a latenight political talk show host (similar to Jon Stewart) who is urged by an audience member to run for president in the next U.S election. He decides he will run and he ends up winning, much to his and everyone else's surprise. And then things start to unravel. I am not going to give the plotline away, but I will say in between all of the confusion, the comedic late-night host did his job of being funny.

"Politicians are a lot like diapers. They should be changed frequently, and for the same reason," Tom Dobbs (aka Robin Williams) says in the film.

This movie was worth going to for the jokes and comments Williams says when he is at the presidential platform, where he is supposed to answer questions, but instead mocks the other candidates and makes fun of everything from hydrogen cars to same-sex marriage.

"You want an amendment against same-sex marriage! Anyone who's ever been married knows it's always the same sex!" he declares. The problem with the movie is most of the events could have been cut out, shortened or changed. When I saw the trailer, I thought I'd be seeing Williams and his usual antics, being the funny man he is and the movie being another spectacular hit. But no, it was boring. It seems as if the producer couldn't decide if he was making a thrifler or a comedy.

f would never fall asleep through a Robin Williams film, but for this one, f was tempted to doze off halfway through it.

Overall, some of the movie was very comedic, but most of the movie was too serious for my liking. I did enjoy watching it, but I wouldn't say that Man of the Year is a favourite of mine. I would only recommend watching it if you are a Robin Williams fan or just want to see something completely different

## Are you watching closely?

By ANNELISE THOMPSON

A story of two rival magicians, battling for prestige in turn-of-thecentury England, may sound like a new pre-teen film, or even the next chapter in the Harry Potter series, but I assure you it's not. The Prestige is a beautifully crafted fully adult story about love, hatred, jealousy, deception and yes, even a fittle magic.

The timeline of the story may be broken, and the layering of subtle clues complex, but it is arranged in such a way that the entire cast and crew seem to have developed magical powers of their own as the end result is sheer brilliance.

The story is based on a rivalry between once friends and colleagues, Robert Angier, played by Hugh Jackman, and Alfred Borden, played by Christian Bale, following the tragic death of Angier's wife.

The two become so focused on their drive and ambitions to surpass the other as Britain's top magician that they are no longer "afraid to get their hands a little dirty," and each begin their way down a dark, entwined path full of deception,



(Internet photo

Christian Bale and Hugh Jackman star in The Prestige, a love story about two rival magicians who battle for supremacy.

tricks and even murder attempts.

The writing of the piece is so beautifully layered and precise, that even though you are given all the information needed to predict the ending, audiences will be kept guessing what will happen next throughout the movie, as well as wondering how the story will play

This film could have turned into a dark story of hatred and left audiences feeling disappointed, or even angry with the characters, but the ability of this all-star cast (which

also includes Michael Caine, Scarlett Johansson and David Bowie) makes the story much more human and something that audiences could relate to.

The superb storytelling abilities of the Nolan brothers (Jonathan and Christopher) demonstrated in this film will go down in the books as being able to delight both audiences and critics alike. It is a beautiful and brilliant piece that is sure to leave you satisfied.

I would definitely give this movie 4 5/5 stars

## Saw III takes gruesome to a whole new level

#### By ADAM BLACK

Horrifying, grotesque, gruesome, shocking, disgusting: All these words come to mind after seeing Saw III. For fans of the previous movies, nothing compares to the traps and tortures the victims in this latest gore fest have to endure.

In this film, Dr. Lynn Denlon (Bahar Soomekh) awakens to find she is in a warehouse surrounded by weird and horrifying devices. She cannot move because she is tied to a wheelchair. Lynn then discovers the deranged Amanda (Shawnee Smith) is watching over her. She warns Lynn at knifepoint to remain calm. Amanda leads her into another room, where she finds the villainous John "Jigsaw" Kramer (Tobin Bell) lying on his deathbed.

Jigsaw warns Lynn their lives are intertwined. She has a device strapped to her neck that is connected to his heart-rate monitor. If he flatlines, Lynn dies as well. She must keep him alive until Jeff (Angus Macfayden), another one of Jigsaw's victims, makes it through his own test. Little do Lynn and Jeff know, Jigsaw has a



higher purpose for them both.

The tests in this latest epic are by far the most disturbing of the trilogy. Director Darren Lynn Bousman held nothing back in terrifying his audience. The visuals and sound effects all amplify the gruesome pain these victims endure.

The very graphic visuals almost take away from the plotline, which is used to shock the audience. They cause many viewers to turn away and scream out in disgust, more so than the previous ones.

But don't fear, the trademark twist ending is still intact, but is far less jaw dropping then the others. The question remains, is this the final chapter of Jigsaw's twisted games? See the film and decide for yourself.

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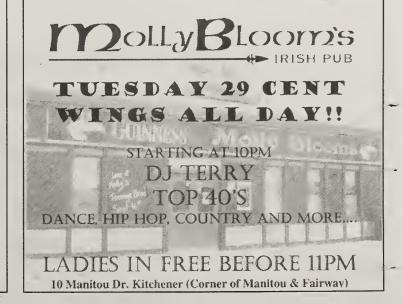
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(Internet photo)

Matt Dusk, a jazz singer from Toronto, brings his good looks and incredible voice to Centre in the Square in Kitchener on Nov. 8.

## Dusk to jazz it up in K-W

#### By BRANDON WALKER

Don't be surprised if Matt Dusk comes into the crowd during his Nov. 8 show at Centre in the Square.

The 27-year-old jazz crooner from Toronto says his shows are as much about the audience as they are about music.

"The music is obviously the core part of it, but it's more the experience. I jump into the crowd and I talk to people. I believe a concert should offer something more than a CD or a DVD can. With the whole jazz environment, the community is a big part of why the music is there, and the shows have started revolving around the entertainment factor," Dusk said.

He's had songs on the charts, in the Katie Holmes film First Daughter and on the television show Casino, and it isn't because of luck.

It only takes the listener a few seconds of hearing Dusk's new CD Back In Town, to realize this "entertainer" has talent. He's got Frank Sinatra's pipes with movie star good looks. He's also got the

ability to multi-task.

Dusk took on a new role for his latest CD, that of producer. "It's a lot of responsibility. The creativity becomes the business side of it. I absolutely love it. It's cool when you can create a baby from birth. I don't just go in and sing."

He said every day he was the first person in the studio and the last to leave. "I'm mixing, I'm mastering. I'm on the photo shoot. It's great. It's the coolest thing ever."

When asked about the challenge of breaking into the American market, he said, "I don't think it's necessarily harder (being from Canada). It's difficult for anyone, period. Every week there's 200 catalogue discs released. There's only so much sell space available. Retail really determines what is successful or not. It's an industry where it's money and promotion versus talent and ability."

Although he performs primarily jazz, Dusk listens to all kinds of music. "It's a plethora of mixes. Right now I've got five or six albums in my iPod: Green Day's American Idiot, the new Justin Timberlake CD Justified,

Christina Aguilera's new one, a couple of house CDs and the new Diana Krall disc. Music is way more accessible than it used to be, with the Internet, television and radio."

He jokingly listed MC Hammer as one of his influences. "I just wanted to see if you'd type that," he said. "That's an interesting question, I would definitely say Sinatra is an influence, but only in some areas of what I do."

The Waterloo Entertainment Centre (WEC) is presenting Dusk at Centre in the Square. Genevieve DeMerchant, the manager of marketing and development for WEC, said the upcoming show will feature arrangements never heard before. "It's a full big-band sound. When I saw him at the WEC, the best part was the way he made me feel like he was singing directly to me. He's got an incredible sensual performance style that women

Tickets are \$25 to \$55 and are available through the Centre in the Square box office by calling 519-578-1570 or at http://www.centresquare.com/.

# CD enraptures scallywags

#### By HOLLY FEATHERSTONE

Enthusiasts of Pirates of the Caribbean can extend their affinity for the infamous Captain Jack Sparrow and temporarily subdue their anticipation for the release of Dead Man's Chest by immersing themselves in the motion picture soundtrack.

Contemporary composer Hans Zimmer (Gladiator, The Ring, The DaVinci Code) effectively traces the movie's thematic sequence in his sonically-diverse orchestral repertoire, accentuated with resonant chorale.

The first track, appropriately entitled Jack Sparrow, launches with a playfully sauntering combination of violin and brass, evocative of Sparrow's half-wittedly drunken stride. Such vivid personification is intervened by solo violin, recapturing a musical theme also present in The Curse of the Black Pearl. Zimmer, however, elaborates on this particular melody by lengthening the already colourful and disjunctive continuum of notes with full orchestral accompaniment.

The second track, The Kraken, introduces Zimmer's clever use of percussion: a muted bass drum indicative of a beating heart, establishing an apprehensive ambience. The organ, a compelling addition to the composition, gradually crescendos to a rupturing variation equally fervent and captivating.

Zimmer continues to demonstrate his knack for unusual embellishments, including the strategic use of chimes, choir "ah's," heavily-articulated tribal rhythms and resounding vocal effects, particularly apparent among tracks five and six.

Contrasts are abundant throughout Zimmer's diverse tapestry. Listeners are forewarned to latheir expectations to rest, as opus contains no distinct paradigm.

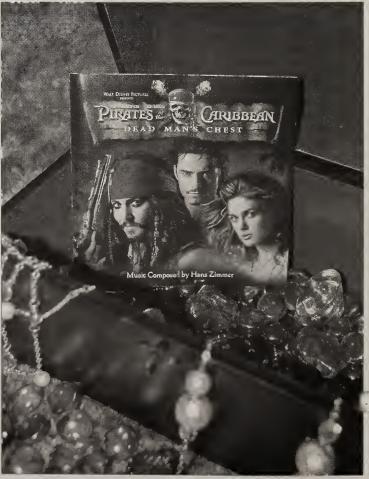
One moment the listener is engaged by an unrelenting current of despondent, unearthly chords, only to be blatantly transfixed to a comically resplendent Celtic variation in track seven's Two Hornpipes.

Zimmer's penchant for harmlessly misleading the listener further exemplifies his creative hallmark. He avidly uses time signature changes to diversify his work as

The ninth track, Wheel of Fortune, imparts an action-driven and deterministic sketch for the listener, which revisits the inaugural violin theme in track one and refreshingly features yet another recognizable theme from The Curse of the Black Pearl, perhaps the only seemingly structural part of the composition.

Unfortunately, tracks 10 and 11 are particularly drawn out, both lacking distinct melody and orchestral stamina. The climactic point is difficult to detect as well, owing to the mundane reverberation of melancholic notes. Though Zimmer's notoriety for staggering the listener proved to be effective, it is difficult to gratify an audience with an ill-defined finale.

Despite a weak culmination, Zimmer effectively intrigues the listener in the bulk of the score with a vast multitude of alterations in tempo and style whilst keeping in harmony with the movie's chronology. Consequently, Dead Man's Chest is capable of enrapturing a wide variety of scallywags and swashbucklers, savvy!



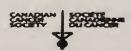
(Photo by Holly Featherstone)

The soundtrack from Pirates of the Caribbean, the Dead Man's Chest, shows off Hans Zimmer's thematic sequences.

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www.eatsmart.web.net.









#EHLRP003



#### Horoscope

Week of November 6, 2006





Aries March 21 -April 19

You were born a leader even if but tend to be shy, a leader lies within you. Stand up this week and take of charge of any situation you are faced with. Hanging back will only work against you.



Taurus April 20 - May 20

You enjoy being in ealm and peaceful situations. This week your limits will be stretched as ealm and peace are not on your agenda. Bear with it and remember your steadfastness will get you through it.



Gemini May 21 - June 21

You are a busy body by nature, never able to sit still for long. As a sign of duality, you have the ability to be two things at once. Don't allow any negative feelings to overcrowd your positive ones. Be happy, you deserve it.



Cancer
June 22 - July 22

Underneath your seemingly lion exterior lies a cuddly kitten. Your friends will need the kitten in you to come out this week as they'll need someone to talk to about problems they ean't bring to anyone else.



Leo July 23 - August

You are a person of nobility who holds your head high no matter the situation and always hold people in a good light. Be aware, your kindness will be tested as tensions rise and childish pettiness comes into play. You are too good for that.



Virgo August 23 -September 22

You care a great deal about others, sometimes too much. Being there for those who need you is one thing but being there for everybody is quite another. Do not allow yourself to be rundown by others' problems, take time to care about you.



Libra
September 23 October 22

Your charm and grace will be your best friends as situations may arise that need a smooth talker to resolve. Your poise and social-mindedness are great skillsyou possess, don't let them fade.



Scorpio
October 23 November 21

Half-ass has never been your style when it comes to anything that you do. Don't panie as your workloads gain pounds, your willpower and determined spirit will get you through everything just fine.



Sagittarius November 22 -December 21

As a lover of freedom and independence you may begin to feel elaustrophobic and tied down when problems arise with work, family and friends. Remember to breathe and take each problem as it comes.



Capricorn
December 22 January 19

You're like a turtle, shy and reserved until you become familiarized. Shake the shell this week, be outgoing and daring. Let loose from your eautious ways and experience an off-the-cuff life. It'll do you some good.



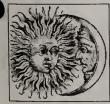
Aquarius January 20 -February 18

Lying just isn't the way you go about life. You are open and honest about all you do. Pay attention to words around you, you may overhear information you don't want to be honest about. Whether it's right or wrong, stay true to yourself.



Pisces February 19 -March 20

Be careful not to mix fantasy with reality. As a Pisces, you yearn for things to be perfect, including life. You tend to see only what you want and not what actually is. Don't fall for the fake. Real, even if not perfect, is always better.



Tiffany McCormick is a third-year journalism student holding fate in the palm of her hand.

#### Guelph man's dream comes true

#### Witnesses his beloved Cardinals win World Series

By ANGELO MAZZIOTTI

Everyone who loves knows passion. Passion is one of the strongest emotions one can feel. It is that very same passion that fuels sports fans. A passion that makes a fan stand up, cheer and even shed tears.

Now, imagine finding your team in the World Series, and imagine feeling all the passion that accompanies that. For one area man, that dream became reality, as he was in attendance as his team won the World Series in St. Louis.

Lifelong St. Louis Cardinals fan Garry Double of Guelph made the long drive to Missouri to witness his Cardinals defeat the Detroit Tigers in Game 5 of the World Series. Double said it was a dream come true.

"I don't have words to describe how I felt," said Double. "I am going to remember Oct. 27 for as long as I live."

It was the Cardinals 10th World Series victory and first since 1982.

"The win in 1982 was great too, but this one was extra special because I was actually here to be a part of it," said Double. "Last time I was at home on my couch, this time I got to celebrate it with my team."

"We got to the ball park at about 7 a.m. game day to look for tickets. I didn't care if I had to climb the stadium walls, I was going to see the game any way I could."

Garry Double, lifelong St. Louis Cardinals fan

Double made the trip with his wife, Shirley, and got an early start to the day.

"We got into St. Louis the night

before and slept at a hotel," said Double. "We got to the ball park at about 7 a.m. game day to look for tickets. I didn't eare if I had to climb the stadium walls, I was going to see the game any way I could."

Luckily for the couple they didn't have to go to that extreme, but they did pay a helty price.

"Let's just say it was the most I have ever paid for a pair of nosebleeds," joked Double. "But it was all worth it. I would go back and do it again in a heartbeat."

Most North Americans, however, did not share Double's passion. The Series set record lows for viewership across the world.

"I think one of the reasons the series tanked in the ratings was a lack of big name players," said Double. "I think America wants to see someone like Barry Bonds do something controversial every year. This series was just good clean baseball, the way it was meant to be played."

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